News-item captioned "Ministry clips outgoing Air MD's bid to rush through 40 foreign postings

2183. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 21st Jul, 1997, captioned "Ministry clips outgoing Air Indian MD's bid to rush through 40 foreign postings";

(b) if so, the names of the 40 officers and the corresponding 40 foreign postings' titles;

(c) whether any action will be initiated in this regard; and

(d) steps proposed to seek an explanation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the list of foreign postings at Annexure (*See Appendix* 181, *Annexure No.* 54).

(c) Officers against whom there is no vigilance/disciplinary case pending or contemplated will be released for foreign postings after obtaining visa and work permit, if there are no other compelling circumstances for changing the orders in any particular case.

(d) Does not arise.

Regional airline with night half facility at North-East

2184. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to float a regional airline with night half facility in the North-Eastern region to develop tourism;

(b) who would have a major stake in the airlines—The North-East Council (NEC) or Indian Airlines Limited or Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(c) whether bigger presence of Tourism Finance Corporation Limited (TFCIL), Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) would be considered in the North-East; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (c) No, Sir. Only a concept paper on "Regional Airline in North-East" has been received from the Indian Airlines. Various options/models for operation of dedicated services in North-East region have been suggested. The paper is under examination.

DGCA Flight Inspector for helicopters

2185. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Ministesr of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no DGCA Flight Inspector for helicopters; and

(b) if so, what is being done about this?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) There is one sanctioned post of Inspector of Flying/Flight Operation Inspector (Helicopter) in the office of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The post is presently vacant due to the retirement of the last incumbent of the post. Action to fill up the post is being taken in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Mid-air collision over Delhi

2186. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in The Times of India (ND) dated 25th June, 1997 under the captioned 'Mid-air collision over Delhi averted for 370 passengers, ATC suspended, if so, details of the incident;